THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Shortage of rigs for drilling work

†2113. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to acute shortage of rigs, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) could not start drilling work in oil well of 14 blocks between years 2006 and 2009;

(b) whether it is also a fact that companies like ONGC and RIL have not been able to complete their work in the blocks allotted to them, under the new oil extraction policy;

(c) if so, the impact of this on oil and gas production; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate numbers of rig drilling machines?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has not been able to commence exploratory drilling in 14 deep water blocks mainly due to shortage of deep water rigs.

(b) Yes, Sir. ONGC and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) could not complete their committed drilling programme in the deep water blocks allotted to them under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime.

(c) There is no direct impact on Oil and Gas production as drilling is delayed in exploration areas where oil and gas has not yet been discovered.

(d) Rigs are required to be mobilized by the Contractors from the local or International Markets. Government ensures expediting clearances, facilitating deployment of rigs once Contractors are able to mobilize the rigs.

Leakage incidents of oil depots

†2114. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where from the incidents of petroleum leakage have been reported to Government during the last month in addition to the leakage incidents in Jaipur, Rajasthan;

(b) whether no corrective measures have been taken despite complaints of leakage for the last three years in Jharkhand;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there was a possibility of catching fire due to leakage in Mathura also;

(d) whether an enquiry in all these incidents has been conducted;

(e) if so, the findings thereof; and

(f) whether any action has been taken against any body or anyone has been punished for these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (f) There has been no incident of leakage reported from any of the locations of the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) during the last three years in the country including the State of Jharkhand.

There was no incidence of leakage at Mathura installation. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has reported that, there was only a minor flash on 31.10.2009 in the delicensed area resulting in smoke. The situation was brought under control immediately and the incident was over in 30 seconds.

Status of IPI gas pipeline

2115. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Iran- Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project;

(b) whether it is a fact that satisfactory progress has not been made in the discussions with Iran and Pakistan on this project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that China has shown interest in this project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, *viz.*, pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, security of supplies, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, etc., are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(b) and (c) Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the Project.

(d) and (e) No official communication has been received regarding China joining IPI gas pipeline project.

Oil security

2116. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: